

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17800 091322Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5457
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17800

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS-1
TAGS: OREP, PGOV, UR, US
SUBJECT: INVITATION TO SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION; RUBEN ON
HUMAN RIGHTS AND AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG

REF: (A) STATE 180303, (B) MOSCOW 17696

1. DURING MY DECEMBER 8 COURTESY CALL ON V.P. RUBEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF NATIONALITIES, I REFERRED TO THE INVITATION BY SPEAKER O'NEILL AND MAJORITY LEADER BYRD FOR A DELEGATION OF THE SUPREME SOVIET TO VISIT THE US IN JANUARY 1978 (REF A). EXPRESSING THANKS FOR THE INVITATION, RUBEN SAID THE DELEGATION WOULD BE LED BY BORIS N. PONOMAREV, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF NATIONALITIES' AFFAIRS COMMISSION. THE OTHER MEMEBERS HAD NOT YET BEEN CHOSEN BUT THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD INFORM US IN GOOD TIME.

2. STRESSING (AS HAD SOLOMENTSEV BEFORE HE RECENTLY VISITED THE US) THAT THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WOULD BE TO DEVELOP FRIENDLY BILATERAL RELATIONS, RUBEN THEN HELD FORTH ON THE "HIGHEST
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 17800 091322Z

VALUE", PEACE, AND THE SOVIET VERSION OF THE "HIGHEST HUMAN RIGHT": THE "RIGHT TO LIVE WITHOUT FEAR OF LOSING ONE'S LIFE". IN THIS CONNECTION HE MADE SOME SNIDE REMARKS ABOUT AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG'S HUMAN RIGHTS STANCE AT BELGRADE WHICH DOVETAILED WITH RECENT SOVIET PRESS ATTACK (REF B). I TOLD RUBEN IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THAT IN MAKING HIS

PRESENTATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS MY GOOD FRIEND
AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG SPEAKS FOR ALL AMERICANS
(MEMCON BEING POUCHED).

3. A HARD LINE IDEOLOGUE, PONOMAREV IS A CANDIDATE
MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO AND A CC SECRETARY WITH
SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE
LAST VISITED THE US AS HEAD OF THE 1974 SUPREME
SOVIET DELEGATION AND WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT NIXON.
AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, BREZHNEV RECEIVED BOTH
CODEL SCOTT/HUMPHREY AND CODEL ALBERT. I RECOMMEND
THAT IN ADDITION TO FORMAL MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF THE
CONGRESS, THE SOVIET DELEGATION BE SHOWN HOW A US
SENATOR OR CONGRESSMAN SPENDS HIS DAY. THE
OFFICIAL SOVIET COMPREHENSION OF CONGRESS'
ROLE IN THE US POLITICAL SYSTEM IS POOR, AND
WE BELIEVE EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT SHOULD BE
MADE TO IMPROVE IT.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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